

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC 7 C07C17/358 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) IPC 7 CO7C Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched Electronic data base consulted during the International search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used) EPO-Internal C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Category * Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages Relevant to claim No. X EP 0 881 201 A (AUSIMONT SPA) 1-4,6-8, 2 December 1998 (1998-12-02) 10 page 2, line 53 - line 58 claims 1,4; examples 1A,1B Χ. US 3 787 331 A (CASTELLAN A ET AL) 1-3,6-8, 22 January 1974 (1974-01-22) 10-12 column 4, line 39 - line 49; examples 2,5; table 4 X US 5 731 481 A (LANTZ ANDRE ET AL) 1-8,1024 March 1998 (1998-03-24) examples 1A,1B,2A,2B X US 5 616 820 A (CHEMINAL BERNARD ET AL) 1-3,6-8,1 April 1997 (1997-04-01) 10-13 column 6, line 8 - line 35; examples A,B; table 1 X Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. Patent family members are listed in annex. Special categories of cited documents: "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance invention "E" earlier document but published on or after the international "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to filing date document which may throw doubts on priority dalm(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another dtation or other special reason (as specified) involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art. *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or Other means *P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed "&" document member of the same patent family Date of the actual completion of the international search Date of mailing of the international search report 28/09/2004 17 September 2004 Name and mailing address of the ISA Authorized officer European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo ni,

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International Application No
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